



Biblical Insight

Verse 12

- Verse 12 speaks of the unmitigated gall of these **certain men**.
- They are **spots**, literally "rocks washed by the sea."
 - The imagery seems to be that of hidden stones, within the food at the **feasts of charity**.
 - These men are dangerous, yet gather **feeding themselves without fear** at the "agape feasts," which were times of celebration in conjunction with the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:17-21).
 - They were **without fear** because they alone knew where these **spots** were.
- The verb **feeding themselves** is actually **shepherding themselves**, possibly a further reference to their despising of dominion in v. 8, or perhaps a derogatory statement of their habits, "pasturing themselves" (Compare Ezekiel 34:2).
- Like **clouds without water** or **trees without fruit**, they show potential but are just a facade.
 - The phrase **trees whose fruit withereth** is literally, "autumnal trees."
 - The fruit has already withered, and now the leaves are dry and falling, thus **twice dead**.
 - The **certain men** were **twice dead** in that they were not only still dead in their sin, but also were dead in their profession of faith.

Verse 13

- The Greek *πλανήτης* [planetes] is used only here, from which we get "planets."
 - Since stars do not "wander," this is precise scientifically.
 - The speaks of the darkness of space in which the stars must live their existence. It is also, no doubt, a reference to the lostness of these **certain men**.
- The **certain men** seem similar to those Paul described in Phil. 3:18-19.

Verse 14

- **The seventh**: Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, and Enoch.
- **Propheied of these** - This is the only place in the Scripture we learn of Enoch's prophecies.
 - Here, under the guidance of the Spirit, Jude quotes from the book of Enoch.
 - Such quotation does not testify to the inspiration of the Book of Enoch, only to the truth of this particular statement.
 - Some take objection to the fact that Jude quotes the Book of Enoch, saying (or building a case) that this makes either the book of Enoch as inspired or it makes the book of Jude

uninspired. Such conclusions are not necessary. In other places (Titus 1:12) extra-Biblical sources are mentioned. Furthermore, the quotation of a truth does not say anything about the veracity of other words from that author.

- **his saints** - Literally, "of his holy ones." This could be angels or believers. Compare Dt. 33:2.

Verse 15

- **To execute judgment** - The descriptions of the return make it clear that Jude is making reference to the Second Coming, not the rapture.
- **convince** - Literally, "to convict," as in convicting a criminal of a crime.

Verse 16

- **murmuring** - The root, **γογγύζω** [*goggúzō*] is the word used that refers to the indistinguishable sound of pigeons cooing.
- **complainers** - This is the only time the word "complain" appears in the New Testament. The Greek means "to assign a portion of the blame."
- **having men's persons...** - Literally, "giving admiration to the face for profit."

Translation Comparison

Verses 12 -13

- The GNB and *The Message* both take considerable liberties in describing the condition and behavior of these men.

Verse 14

- **Holy ones** - *The Message* interprets as *angels*, which is in the realm of possibility.

Verse 15

- **hard speeches** - NIV: *defiant words*. NLT: *insults*. *The Message*: *dirty words*.

Verse 16

- **murmurers** - Most other translations use "grumblers"
- **Having men's persons...** - NKJV, "flattering people to gain advantage." Other modern translations similar.